# SPOTLIGHT ON HATE

Tom Sandoval

## The Ohio Chapter of the American Family Association's Plot to eliminate gays and lesbians from political and social viability

**Holy Wars**

Religious fundamentalist movements have a long history of promoting religious viewpoints and agendas in secular society. Colorado's Amendment 2 and Oregon's Measure 9 are examples of right wing attempts to erode the separation of church and state prescribed by the framers of the Constitution. So-called grassroots organizations intent on capitalizing on the militant religious agenda pioneered by groups such as The Christian Coalition, the American Family Association, Colorado for Family Values (CFV) and Focus on the Family have begun to dot the American political landscape. Project Spotlight (PS) is a troubling new participant in the Religious War on secular society declared at the 1992 Republican National Convention.

**Idle Hands**

Project Spotlight is the creation of the Ohio chapter of the American Family Association (AFA) as a vehicle to implement a statewide (and eventually nationwide) agenda designed to intimidate gay friendly elected officials and install openly hostile ones to help subvert the civil rights of gay Americans.

The original PS campaign began in 1993 to repeal a gay friendly ordinance adopted by the Cincinnati city council. The project's stated goal was to "win back" the city councils of Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo, Youngstown and Dayton, Ohio from the clutches of perceived "pro-homosexual" officials.

**Hate 101**

Many hands contributed to the creation of PS financially and strategically. PS acknowledges that AFA and CFV directly provided funding and expertise to their efforts, which closely paralleled CFV's actions in Colorado in both style and substance. Indeed, approximately $400, 000 worth of assistance (and fully 80% of the total election budget) was provided by CFV. Additionally, a summit held in Colorado Springs in April 1993 by CFV principals shared skills and information necessary for running an anti-gay electoral campaign. Two attendees were Ohio residents Doug Montgomery and Phil Burress. Montgomery was executive director of Take Back Cincinnati- which changed its name to Equal Rights, Not Special Rights shortly after it gathered enough signatures to put the issue on the ballot. Burress, through his group Citizens for Community Values, spearheaded the lawsuit against the Cincinnati Art Museum over the display of certain photographs by the late Robert Mapplethorpe. The contents of the conference were distilled into a kit later marketed by CFV to interested like minded groups nationwide wishing to pursue an anti-gay agenda.

**Agenda Benders**

The stated agenda of PS is outlined in its April 1994 information packet written by director Scott Ross:

1) To educate the public about the homosexual agenda.

2) To educate voters about every candidate who is pro homosexual by identifying which candidates have been endorsed by the homosexuals and the values these candidates advocate to receive that endorsement.

*Objectionable Objectives*

Ross states two similar objectives for his group:

1) "To hold candidates accountable for promoting the 'homosexual agenda' through public policy."

2) "To elect a majority (of)....candidates who oppose the 'homosexual agenda'. Once accomplished, repeal the Human Rights Ordinance of any other homosexual 'special rights' legislation in each...city."

Additionally, Ross writes "every city must implement a plan to find candidates who are 'pro-family' and willing to run for city council." None is offered, however.

**Step by Step**

Ross describes a four step plan for action.

1) educate (via media) voters about the "homosexual agenda".

2) register people to vote.

3) start a "petition" drive to gather signatures of like minded voters. The suggested language of said petition reads:

"I pledge that I will not vote for any candidate that has accepted a political endorsement from homosexuals. I am opposed to elected officials promoting the homosexual agenda...I am for equal rights for all. Therefore, I am opposed to special rights laws that promote homosexuality."

Nothing in this statement deals with actually placing anything on a ballot. It is a clever tool to identify homophobic voters and create a list for usage in step 4.

4) Two weeks before an election, mail to every person who signed the petition a list of candidates who have been endorsed by homosexuals and a list of those who have not

**Christianization**

In the objectives section, Ross mentions an African-American minister, Rev. Chas Winburn, who ran for council opposing "special rights" as tacit proof that the African-American constituency can be exploited as a valuable voting bloc. This contradicts statements made at the April 1993 summit by CFV director Kevin Tebedo warning that to court racial minorities for a "political motive...is insincere". Far more telling was commentary made by thoroughly discredited psychologist Paul Cameron who simplistically states that the only "black" people who can be counted on to support a 'Traditional Values Agenda' are married. "Single people who are shacking up are pro-gay...If

## ight on Hatred-continued

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re on welfare, they are pro-Cameron then postulates that {the racial minority} communi-roup is Christianized enough to icking up their marriage rate, I hink they can be won. Period."

**Out and Oppress Someone**

ly the most outrageous state-(and there are many) made in otlight literature is on the cre-of what is referred to as ation Hope".

or Phil Burress, in his conclud-ragraph mentions that leaders ed in the Cincinnati effort ed" to create an outreach pro-for "the homosexuals and others exual addictions". No objective ed but one might guess that rsions to heterosexuality and "family values" are actually attempted, probably by warped psychologists like Cameron. This self-serving ploy aims to give the impression that the groups actions are altruistic and pure. The operation is intended to give the public a perception that, despite their penchant for virulent rhetoric and tacit approval of anti gay violence, PS and its analogues are caring and compassionate human beings.

Burress writes, " Homosexuals really believe we hate them. They really believe that we are bigots and homophobic. They do not make this up. For those of us who are Christians, and most who are in these campaigns are, how can we proceed with a political campaign without reaching out to someone who thinks we hate them?"

**Coercive Elimination of Dissent**

Groups spawned and groomed by wealthy militant Christian groups are poised to take control of Government from school boards to the White House if secular society does not react swiftly to the threat. Perhaps the most eloquent statement made with regards to the dangers of majoritarianism was made in 1943, when Justice Jackson wrote the opinion of the Supreme Court in West Virginia State Board of Education vs. Barnette, saying in part: "The very purpose of the Bill of Rights was to withdraw certain subjects from the vicissitudes of political controversy, to place them beyond the reach of majorities and officials and to establish them as legal principles to be applied by the courts. One's rights to life, liberty, and property, to free speech, a free press, freedom of worship and assembly, and other fundamental rights may not be submitted to a vote. They depend on the outcome of no elections.

....Struggles to coerce uniformity of sentiment in support of some end thought essential to their time and country have been waged by many good as well as by evil men...As first and moderate methods to attain unity have failed, those bent on its accomplishment must resort to an ever increasing severity. ....Those who begin coercive elimination of dissent soon find themselves eliminating dissenters. Compulsory unification of opinion achieves only the unanimity of the graveyard."

# CFV PROPOSES ANTI-RAINBOW TROUT AMENDMENT

**by FRANKLIN WHITWORTH**

continuing campaign to remove the threat of the very colorful "homosexual" agenda from all visibility, Kevin Tebedo, director of do for Family Values, those fun lovers who gave us Amendment Two, announced today that a petition is to be circulated support-aw that would require that all rainbow trout register as potential agents of the radical homosexual agenda.

can't specifically put a finger on it," said Tebedo, "but we are sure that there are connections between a large number of these trout eers. I mean, look at how those trout slither through the water and I'm sure that I saw two male trout bumping each other seduc-ast week in a stream near my home. We just can't be too careful!!!"

elated move, Tebedo has addressed a letter to the National Fisheries Board demanding a list of all people who work directly with are connected with rainbow trout, or who may have any direct knowledge of the ties between the Rainbow Trout Movement and y Agenda. "We have strong suspicions that there is a perverted liason between these two dangerous groups," Tebedo spluttered. eed to have a list of all these potential subversives and perverts ready when the day comes for us to act more directly."

reporter has it on the best authority that Colorado for Family Values has been working with a leading research team, funded by on the Family and headed by Dr. Paul Cameron, that is seeking ways of eliminating colors altogether, especially more than one n the same area or on the same document. It is rumored that they are seeking to develop a ray gun capable of rendering all US citi-olor blind. When contacted, Cameron stated that they have made great progress in this direction. "The only problem" he contin-stems from the fact that we are now faced with too many shades of grey and we fear people will substitute these grey tones for col-the rainbow. This would be an obvious perversion of the worst sort. It's very perplexing. It would be so much better if every-and everyone, could just be white, but we haven't figured out how to do that yet. "The Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan has had nteresting solutions to this problem," Cameron observed, "but we view these as somewhat premature."

New York office of Colorado for Family Values has also announced that it is keeping its eye on the "Rainbow Room" high atop the Building. "From that vantage point," stated a member of the organization who wished to remain anonymous, "homosexuals and riends would have a commanding position in the battle for New York and we know that they serve alot of Rainbow Trout up

may be overreacting" stated Tebedo, "but better safe than sorry. In essence, we don't view the Rainbow Trout population as essen-d its elimination may be justifiable for the greater good. Certainly, we should be looking at the possibility of removing them from ainstream population to segregated ponds for their own protection while we study this matter more."

***Fiction--of course--but as we have said before--truth is often stranger than fiction.***